

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q86398

Mitsushi ITANO, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/525,249

Group Art Unit: 1796

Confirmation No.: 5360

Examiner: Gregory E. WEBB

Filed: August 8, 2005

For: REMOVING SOLUTION

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated June 18, 2008, Applicants elect Group I (claims 1-14 and 35-66) for prosecution, with traverse.

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the Restriction Requirement as to the Group II and Group IX claims, and to examine claims 15-18 and 68 and claim 67 together with the Group I claims, for the following reasons.

Group I (claims 1-14 and 35-66) specifies a resist-removing solution for low-k film. Group II (claims 15 to 18 and 68) specifies methods of removing a resist. In the Group II method, the important technical feature is using the resist-removing solution of claim 1. Therefore, the Group II claims can be examined using the same field of search as the Group I claims. More importantly, pursuant to the PCT Unity of Invention rules, the Group I and Group II claims share a common technical feature (i.e., the resist-removing solution of claim 1) which represents an advance in the art.

Group IX (claim 67) specifies a removing method of etching residue. In the method of Group IX, the important technical feature is using the resist-removing solution of claim 1.

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Therefore, the Group IX and Group I claims can be examined in the same field of search. More importantly, the Group I and Group IX claims share a common technical feature which represents an advance in the art.

Applicants further reserve the right to request rejoinder of the Group II and Group IX claims as amended to include all of the limitations of an allowable product claim.

Applicant also reserves the right to file a Divisional Application directed to the non-elected subject matter.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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WASHINGTON OFFICE

**23373**

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: July 16, 2008